

Appl. No. 10/063,279
Amdt. Dated May 5, 2004
Reply to Office action of March 12, 2004

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks Examiner Harper for her continued careful and thorough examination of the present application, and also for the very courteous and productive telephone interview conducted May 4, 2004.

Applicant also appreciates the indication in the last Office action of allowed claims 22-23, and of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 9-11, 19, 20, 26 and 29.

The claims have been amended and new claims 30-32 have been added to more clearly describe the invention. No new matter has been entered; basis for the amended claims can be found in the application as filed. In particular, basis for amended claim 1 and new claim 31 can be found, e.g., at paragraphs 0019-0020. Basis for new claim 32 can be found in claim 4 as filed. Claim 25 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Woodward. Claim 1 has now been amended to recite the glass envelope comprises "an integral annular mercury-insulating portion of said glass envelope." It will be understood that by 'integral,' it is meant that the mercury-insulating portion is formed in, and is provided as an integral part or portion of, the glass envelope itself. This makes clear that the mercury-insulating portion is provided integrally as a portion of the glass envelope itself, and not as a separate layer applied over or adjacent the inner surface of the glass envelope, such as layer 16 in Woodward. (See Fig. 2 which shows the glass envelope 12 having a total thickness 5 between the inner and outer surfaces thereof, and the mercury-insulating section (portion) of the glass envelope within the total thickness 5 of the envelope). Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 over Woodward has been overcome.

Claim 18 now has been amended to recite the mercury barrier layer "comprises a material selected from the group consisting of potassium salts, calcium

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salts and mixtures thereof." Conversely, Woodward discloses the "layer 16 may be an oxide formed from the group consisting of magnesium, aluminum, titanium, zirconium and the rare earths." Woodward, col. 4 lines 48-52. Neither potassium nor calcium salts fall within this description of the protective layer 16 disclosed in Woodward. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 18 now is overcome.

Claim 24, has been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Bardos. Claim 24 now has been amended to recite the phosphor layer comprising "at least one potassium species to provide a mercury barrier therein." Conversely, Bardos nowhere discloses or suggests a potassium species being provided in the phosphor layer to provide a mercury barrier therein as now claimed. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 24 now also is overcome.

During the above-mentioned telephone interview, the Examiner agreed that the foregoing amendments to claims 1, 18 and 24 should overcome the pending rejections, and that these claims now appeared to be allowable subject to an update search.

All remaining claims either already have been indicated as being allowed, or are dependent claims and thus should be allowable by virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim.

It is respectfully submitted all claims now are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If, on review, the Examiner should have any questions or concerns with regard to the instant submission, or for any other reason which may advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to please contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed below.

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If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33916.

Respectfully submitted,

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